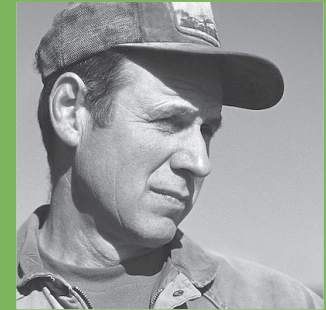
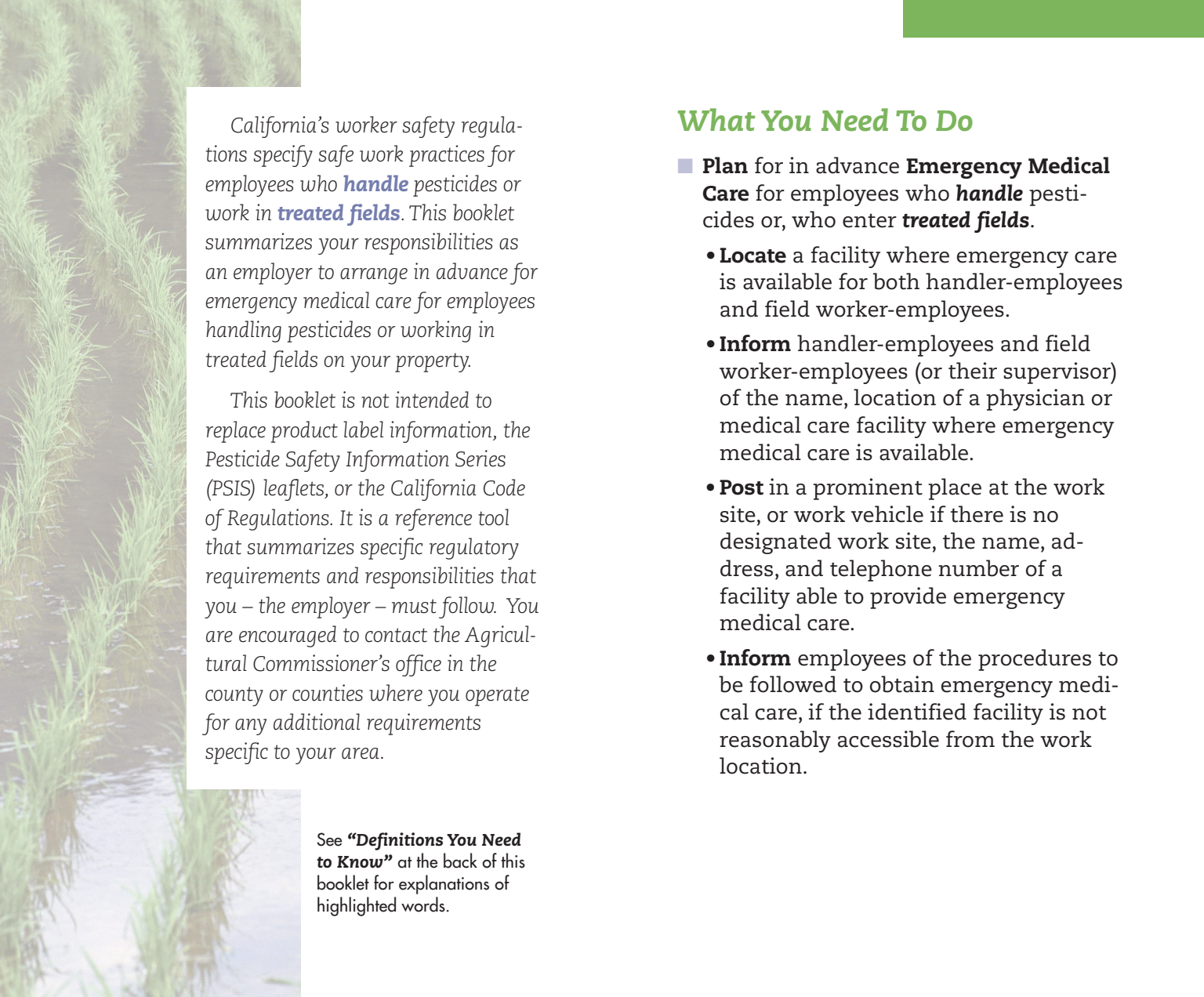


Compliance Assistance



# ***Pesticide Emergency Medical Care***

EMPLOYER  
RESPONSIBILITIES



California's worker safety regulations specify safe work practices for employees who **handle** pesticides or work in **treated fields**. This booklet summarizes your responsibilities as an employer to arrange in advance for emergency medical care for employees handling pesticides or working in treated fields on your property.

This booklet is not intended to replace product label information, the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflets, or the California Code of Regulations. It is a reference tool that summarizes specific regulatory requirements and responsibilities that you – the employer – must follow. You are encouraged to contact the Agricultural Commissioner's office in the county or counties where you operate for any additional requirements specific to your area.

See **"Definitions You Need to Know"** at the back of this booklet for explanations of highlighted words.

## What You Need To Do

- **Plan** for in advance **Emergency Medical Care** for employees who **handle** pesticides or, who enter **treated fields**.
  - **Locate** a facility where emergency care is available for both handler-employees and field worker-employees.
  - **Inform** handler-employees and field worker-employees (or their supervisor) of the name, location of a physician or medical care facility where emergency medical care is available.
  - **Post** in a prominent place at the work site, or work vehicle if there is no designated work site, the name, address, and telephone number of a facility able to provide emergency medical care.
  - **Inform** employees of the procedures to be followed to obtain emergency medical care, if the identified facility is not reasonably accessible from the work location.



- **Assure** that the employee is taken to a physician immediately:
- When there is reasonable grounds to suspect that an employee has a pesticide illness, or
- When an exposure to a pesticide has occurred that might reasonably be expected to lead to an employee's illness.

### **What If You Don't Comply?**

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the County Agricultural Commissioners enforce California pesticide laws and regulations. It is your responsibility to take all reasonable measures to assure that employees handle and use pesticides in accordance with the requirements of law, regulations, and pesticide product labeling requirements.

If you follow the worker safety requirements, you protect your employee's health, the environment, and yourself. If you do not comply, you will violate federal and State law. DPR and the Counties' Agricultural Commissioners have the authority to



levy substantial penalties on persons who violate pesticide laws. Penalties range from \$50 for minor violations to \$50,000, and imprisonment for certain violations that have 'created or reasonably could have created a hazard to human health or the environment.' Also, persons who hold a license or certificate issued by DPR and who are found in violation can have their license or certificate suspended or revoked.

## Definitions You Need To Know

**Handle** – means mixing, loading, transferring, applying (including chemigation), or assisting with the application (including flagging) of pesticides (It does not include: local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties). Also, it includes:

- Incorporating (mechanical or watered-in) pesticides in the soil.
- Maintaining, servicing, repairing, cleaning, or handling equipment used in these activities that may contain residues.
- Working with opened (including emptied but not rinsed) containers of pesticides.
- Adjusting, repairing, or removing treatment site coverings.
- Entry into a treated area during any application or before the inhalation exposure level listed on pesticide product labeling has been reached, or greenhouse ventilation criteria have been met.
- Performing the duties of a crop advisor, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well being of plants, or taking samples during an application or during any restricted entry interval listed on pesticide product labeling.

**Treated Field** – means a field that has been treated with a pesticide or had a restricted entry interval in effect within the last 30 days (It does not include areas inadvertently contaminated by drift or overspray). Also, it includes:

- Associated roads, paths, ditches, borders, and headlands, if the pesticide was also directed to those areas.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office.

A complete set of the worker safety regulations is available online from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's web site at: **[www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov)**



**California Department  
of Pesticide Regulation**

A Department of the California  
Environmental Protection Agency